

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCAG SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

March 2012

RC Report

Highlights from the Regional Council Meeting

March 1, 2012

INFORMATION – Joint Meeting on RTP/SCS Public Comments

The Regional Council and Policy Committees convened an additional joint meeting on March 1, 2012 to discuss public comments received on the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The Draft RTP/SCS was released for a 55-day public review and comment on December 20, 2011 and the public comment period ended on February 14, 2012.

SCAG has received over 160 separate communications containing approximately 1,600 comments on the Draft RTP/SCS and PEIR, generally falling into seven major categories. SCAG staff provided an updated overview of both the comments received on the PEIR as well as the highlighted suggested approaches to address concerns raised. For more detail on the comments received and revision approaches, the staff report is available at www.scag.ca.gov/committees/jointRCPC030112.htm.

Staff will post the final proposed RTP/SCS and PEIR as well as responses to all public comments on March 19, 2012 in advance of the March 21, 2012 Special Joint Meeting of the Policy Committees. At that meeting, staff will seek approval to forward a recommendation to the Regional Council at the April 4, 2012 meeting to certify the Final PEIR and adopt the Final 2012-2035 RTP/SCS.

ACTION – RC Accepts Grant for Electric Vehicle Planning

The Regional Council voted to authorize a contract with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) to accept \$300,000 in grant funds for a Regional Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Infrastructure Plan. SCAG intends to sub-contract with Clean Cities Coalitions in the region to conduct targeted outreach and data collection that will advance the planning process.

Key outcomes of this planning effort will be an analysis of regional PEV demand and supply, a map that identifies potential locations for future charging infrastructure, a best practices guide for local governments and educational workshops.

From the Executive Director

Additional News for the Month

Compass Blueprint Demonstration Projects

The Demonstration Projects continue to be a proven mechanism for supporting regional goals by funding innovative planning studies at the local level. In October 2010, SCAG received applications from 51 jurisdictions, including local cities and counties as well as non-profits and transportation agencies. The proposals were reviewed and ranked, and SCAG was able to initiate the highest ranked 21 projects in Spring 2011. These projects will be completed at the end of the fiscal year in June 2012. Additional funding became available in fall of last year, and SCAG is pleased to announce that procurement is currently underway for an additional 27 projects. Total SCAG Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and Fiscal Year 2012-2013 funding for these projects is expected to be approximately \$3.5 million.

2012 SCAG Scholarship Program

Applications are still being accepted for the 2012 SCAG Scholarship Program. The SCAG Scholarship, in its third year, is designed to provide seven high school and community college students a scholarship award of \$2,000 each and a two-week externship at a local government agency. Recipients will also have an opportunity to meet with their local government representatives and practicing planners to discuss the importance of urban planning and a future career in public service. A total of seven students (one student each from Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura Counties, and two from Los Angeles County) will be recommended for the scholarship award to the Regional Council. Applications for the SCAG Scholarship Program must be postmarked by March 9, 2012.

REGISTER NOW:

2012 SCAG REGIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

April 4–5, 2012

Bonaventure Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles

For more information and registration, visit www.scag.ca.gov/ga2012

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EVENTS

MARCH

- 9th SCAG Scholarship Application Deadline
- 21st RC/Joint Policy Committees Workshop

APRIL

- 4–5 2012 Regional Conference and General Assembly